

NOTES ON *ERICA VIRIDIFLORA* AND THE DESCRIPTION OF A NEW *ERICA* SPECIES

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Erica viridiflora Andr. *Heathery*, t. 229.

The corolla in this species is described correctly by Andrews as viscid and collections made recently confirm this; the leaves too are viscidulous. In *Flora Capensis* the corolla is described as dry. Moreover the species has been placed in section 2, *Didymanthera*, in which the corollae are stated to be dry. Owing to this and other discrepancies and omissions in the *Fl. Cap.* description found on examining fresh material from its natural habitat it is thought desirable to publish a new description. As it stands now it is very misleading. *E. viridiflora* is probably best retained in this section on account of the anthers being sublateral and would be an exception in any other section. It will be necessary, however, to add after the word "dry", "or, rarely, viscid".

DESCRIPTION

Erect, much branched, to 90 cm. or so. *Branches* pubescent, glabrescent. *Leaves* 3-nate, closely set, spreading, oval, obtuse, sulcate, thick, viscidulous, the younger ciliate, 3—8 mm. long. *Flowers* terminal 3-nate, cernuous; peduncles densely pubigerous, 3—5 mm. long; bracts closely imbricating the calyx, broad-ovate to orbicular, concave, strongly keel-tipped, scarious, glabrous, ciliate, green with, often, reddish-brown patches of variable size which are very conspicuous in the flowering plant, 4 mm. long. *Sepals* closely clasping the corolla, very imbricate, the outer usually longer than the inner, ovate, keel-tipped and more or less keeled, otherwise like the bracts, 8—10 mm. long. *Corolla* tubular, somewhat restricted below by the calyx, glabrous, very viscid, green and, unlike the bracts and sepals, turning brown all over after maturity, 2·8 cm. long; lobes slightly spreading, oblong, obtuse, 5 mm. long. *Filaments* 0·4 mm. wide, broadening above at the darker-coloured connective; anthers manifest to exserted, sublateral, oblong, bipartite and divaricate, dark-coloured, appendiculate, 4 mm. long; pore about $\frac{3}{4}$ the length of the cell; awns broad at the base then turning sharply downwards and narrowing to a sharp out-curved point, about 1 mm. long, more rarely absent. *Ovary* oval, glabrous; style exserted; stigma simple.

DISTRIBUTION

CAPE PROVINCE: Mountains in the Mossel Bay and George Divisions.

Flowering season. Winter, but probably at most other times. This description was made from a collection in Robinson Pass 2,300 ft., *Baker* 2471, in Bolus Herbarium, July 1965. The plants were numerous and mixed up with *E. unicolor* which is also green and viscid with tubular flowers but resemblance ends there. The two species are very different in structure, particularly in the shape and set of the leaves, which feature alone marks the two as different species when seen growing together.

Erica coacervata H. A. Baker sp. nov. (*Ericaceae-Ericoideae*) Ceramia.

DESCRIPTION

Frutex depressus, densus, valde ramosus, inter saxa reptans. *Rami* pubigeri pilis brevibus in longitudine variabilibus et pilis longioribus glandulosis mixtis. *Folia* 3-nata plus minusve diversa et recurva, ovata ad oblonga, obtusa, crassa, carinata, sulcata, supra pubescentia et ex parte bracteis et sepalis breviter ciliata et pilis longis setaceis glandulosis admixtis, petiolis inclusis fere 4 mm. longa. *Flores* in umbellis 1—6 natis terminalibus, coacervates ramis in longitudine valde variabilibus interdum in parte superiore sine foliis; pedunculi pilosi ramis similes, fere 6 mm. longi; bractee 2·2 mm. longae; approximatae, inferior foliacea sed superne glabra, pilis ciliatis glandulosis, quam alibi valde longioribus parte superiore anguste elliptico et longiore. *Sepala* 2 mm. longa, ovato-lanceolata, apice sulcata, brevissime puberula ad glabra. *Corolla* urceolata, in faucibus vix constricta, leviter puberula, venosa, arida, obscure purpureo-rubicunda vel rubicunda, 7 mm. longa; lobis leviter extendentibus, obtusis et margine crenulatis, 1 mm. longis. *Antherae* inclusae vel tantum manifestae, laterales, oblongae ad angusto-ellipticae, alte bilobatae, leves, appendiculatae, 1·2 mm. longae; poro fere quarta pars lobi; cristae infra latae et subulatae, rectae, 0·5 mm. longae. *Ovarium* turbinatum, villosum; stylo exserto; stigmatibus capitato.

DISTRIBUTION

CAPE PROVINCE, WORCESTER DIV.: Summit of Waaihoek Peak, 6,400', sprawling amongst and over rocks, *Esterhuysen* 22613, 12/1/54, (Holotype in Bolus Herbarium); Pic Delville, 5,800', *Esterhuysen* 28740; Fonteijnberg, 6,000', *Esterhuysen* 8780, and on the same plateau young sprawling plants after a fire, *Esterhuysen* 20,000; Mostert's Hoek Twins S. side, low matted shrubs, 6,600', *Esterhuysen* 9846; Sentinel Peak, Hex River Mts., *Esterhuysen* 8408; Milner Peak, steep ledges at head of kloof between Milner Peak and Milner Needle, 6,500'. *Esterhuysen* 28101; Keeromsberg, 6,000', *Heatlie* 27645; CERES DIV.: Roodeberg, Matroosberg group, in damp conditions on ledges at the base of the

shale band, 5,500', *Heatlie* 27696; and collected by G. T. Jackson on Keeromsberg (*Marloth* 3891); near the top of Roodeberg, 6,500', *Stokoe* 7833.

Flowering season. Summer.

A much branched, low, dense shrub sprawling amongst and over rocks. *Branches* pubigerous with shortish hairs of different lengths and with longer, setaceous, gland-tipped hairs intermixed. *Leaves* 3-nate, spreading to wide-spreading and recurved, ovate to oblong, obtuse, thick, keeled, sulcate, pubescent above and, like the bracts and sepals, shortly ciliate and with long, setaceous gland-tipped hairs intermixed, about 4 mm. long including the 1 mm. long petiole. *Flowers* clustered in umbels of 1—6 flowers at the ends of branchlets of very variable length which, in some cases, are leafless in the upper portion; peduncles hairy like the branches, about 6 mm. long; bracts approximate, 2.2 mm. long, the lowest one foliaceous but glabrous above and with setose, gland-tipped, ciliate hairs much longer than in the other parts; the upper pair narrow-elliptic and longer. *Sepals* ovate-lanceolate, sulcate at the apex, very shortly puberulous to glabrous, 2.5 mm. long. *Corolla* urceolate, scarcely narrowed at the throat, sparsely puberulous, veined, dry, dull purple-pink, pink or red, 7 mm. long; lobes slightly spreading, obtuse and crenulate on the margins, 1 mm. long. *Anthers* included to manifest, lateral, oblong to narrow-elliptic, deeply bilobed, smooth, appendiculate, 1.2 mm. long; pore about

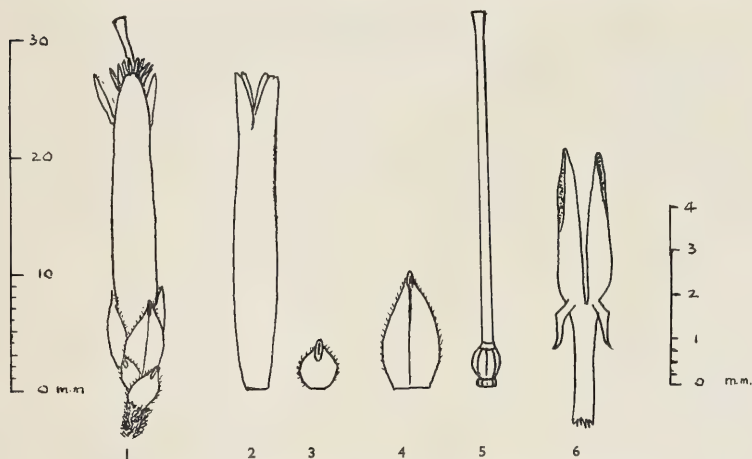


FIG. 1. *Erica viridiflora*. Andr. from *Baker* 2471. 1. Flower; 2. Corolla; 3. Bract; 4. Sepal; 5. Gynoecium; 6. Anther, back view much enlarged.

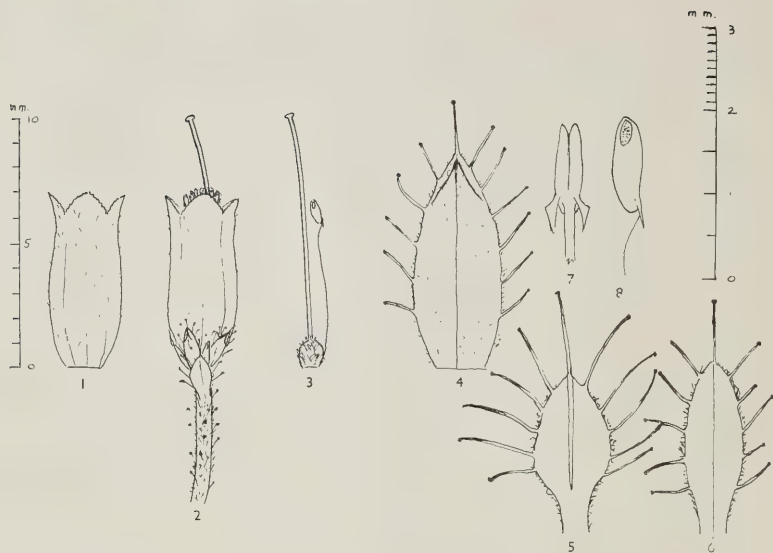


FIG. 2. *Erica coacervata*. 1. Corolla; 2. Flower;
3. Gynoecium; 4. Sepal; 5. Lower Bract;
6. Upper Bract; 7. Anther back; 8. Anther side.



Fig. 3. *E. coacervata*
Sprig, natural size.

$\frac{3}{4}$ the length of the cell; crests wide at the base and subulate, straight, 0.5 mm. long. Ovary turbinate, villous; style exerted; stigma capitate.

E. coacervata has been placed in the section *Ceramia* on account of its sprawling habit although the corolla is unusually long for this section. It is a very distinct species and cannot be said to be closely related to any other yet discovered. It is chiefly interesting on account of the diversity of the hairs on all parts and particularly the very long gland-tipped setose ciliations on the bracts and the shorter ones on the sepals, forming an impenetrable obstacle round the ovary.

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